

FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	CBO Analyst/Phone:
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Legislation Title:

AN ORDINANCE relating to the future operation of a new regional 800 MHz emergency public safety radio communication system; authorizing the Chief Technology Officer of the Department of Information Technology to execute for and on behalf of the City of Seattle a memorandum of agreement between the City of Seattle, King County and the Cities of Auburn, Bellevue, Federal Way, Issaquah, Kent, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Redmond, Renton and Tukwila for the purpose of establishing key terms for a future interlocal agreement to create a non-profit corporation, as provided under RCW 39.34.030, to manage, operate, and maintain a future regional emergency radio communication system.

Summary of the Legislation:

This legislation authorizes the Chief Technology Officer to enter into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with King County and ten other cities within King County for future operation of the new countywide emergency radio system that will be implemented under the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) project. The MOA commits the parties to forming a non-profit corporation that will operate, maintain, and manage the PSERN system; gives Seattle one of four votes on the board of directors that will govern the new non-profit corporation; and defines the initial rate structure for user fees.

The purpose for executing this MOA is to commit the parties to key principles for long-term operation of the future PSERN system before implementation begins while also allowing the parties flexibility to work in good faith towards a more complete agreement. After all details are finalized, future legislation will be submitted to authorize execution of a PSERN Operations Period Interlocal Agreement (Operations ILA) for incorporation of the non-profit corporation and long-term operation, maintenance, and management of the PSERN system.

Background:

The existing regional 800 MHz emergency radio system is used by first responders (police, fire, emergency medical and emergency management) and other government personnel for emergency and routine communications. It supports approximately 16,000 mobile and portable radios and 12 public safety dispatch centers. The system is connected to similar systems in Pierce and Snohomish Counties, allowing first responders to support each other throughout the central Puget Sound region.

The four entities that jointly own the system are: City of Seattle, King County, Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency (EPSCA) and Valley Communications Center. Each entity owns and operates the portion of the system within its designated geographic area and has a 25% interest in central equipment that ties the radio system together. An interlocal agreement defines

governance and operation of the current system.

The system is nearly 20 years old and the manufacturer will cease all support for critical components at the end of 2018. In addition, the system has insufficient radio coverage and capacity in parts of the county due to population growth since the system was installed.

The co-owners have been working collaboratively since 2012 to plan a replacement radio system called the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network System (PSERN System). Governance for the project to plan, finance, acquire and implement a new countywide emergency radio system is formalized in the PSERN Implementation Interlocal Agreement (Implementation ILA) that will be authorized under separate legislation. The Implementation ILA is only intended to be in effect until the PSERN System is fully operational. This legislation addresses the need for a future Operations ILA to cover the maintenance, operation, and management of the PSERN System following completion.

 This legislation does not have any financial implications.

 X This legislation has financial implications.

Appropriations:

Fund Name and Number	Department	Budget Control Level*	2014 Appropriation	2015 Anticipated Appropriation
TOTAL				

**See budget book to obtain the appropriate Budget Control Level for your department.*

Appropriations Notes:

This memorandum of agreement commits the parties to completing a future PSERN Operations ILA which will have financial implications. Details will be provided when legislation is submitted to authorize the PSERN Operations ILA and addressed in future budgets.

Anticipated Revenue/Reimbursement Resulting from this Legislation:

Fund Name and Number	Department	Revenue Source	2014 Revenue	2015 Revenue
TOTAL				

Revenue/Reimbursement Notes:

Total Regular Positions Created, Modified, or Abrogated through this Legislation, Including FTE Impact: N/A

Position Title and Department	Position # for Existing Positions	Fund Name & #	PT/FT	2014 Positions	2014 FTE	2015 Positions*	2015 FTE*
TOTAL							

* 2015 positions and FTE are total 2015 position changes resulting from this legislation, not incremental changes. Therefore, under 2015, please be sure to include any continuing positions from 2014.

Do positions sunset in the future?

Spending/Cash Flow:

Fund Name & #	Department	Budget Control Level*	2014 Expenditures	2015 Anticipated Expenditures
TOTAL				

* See budget book to obtain the appropriate Budget Control Level for your department.

Spending/Cash Flow Notes:

Other Implications:

a) Does the legislation have indirect financial implications, or long-term implications?

The legislation commits the co-owners of the existing regional 800 MHz system to forming a non-profit corporation that will be responsible for ownership, operations, maintenance, and ongoing upgrade and replacement of the new PSERN System for the anticipated useful life of the system.

b) What is the financial cost of not implementing the legislation?

If Seattle does not implement the legislation, the regional project to implement the new PSERN radio system may be delayed or cancelled. This MOA works in close conjunction with the PSERN Implementation ILA. The Implementation ILA require that all parties commit to key principles related to long-term operation of the future PSERN system before project implementation begins.

The existing 800 MHz radio system is fast approaching the end of its useful and supported life, and the risk of system failure is increasing rapidly. If the regional project is delayed, it will extend the duration of elevated risk, potentially impacting the safety of first responders, residents, and visitors to the city.

If the regional project is cancelled, Seattle and the other co-owners will need to act independently to fund and implement the replacement of their respective portions of the current radio system. These independent actions will be duplicative, and could jeopardize existing regional communications capabilities that allow first responders to offer mutual aid and work throughout the central Puget Sound region.

c) Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?

Yes. The 800 MHz radio system is the primary, mission-critical communications tool for Seattle Fire Department and Seattle Police Department. It is also used by City Light, Seattle Department of Human Resources, Department of Information Technology, Department of Planning and Development, Executive Department, Department of Finance and Administrative Services, Human Services Department, Legislative Department, Municipal Courts, Department of Parks and Recreation, Seattle Department of Transportation, Seattle Center and Seattle Public Utilities for emergency and routine communications.

d) What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives?

Seattle could act independently to replace its portion of the existing 800 MHz radio system. However, this could jeopardize the integrity of the regional communication system and significantly downgrade communications capability for regional first responders and other radio system users.

First responders in King County do not have a reasonable, technical alternative to using 800 MHz radios for emergency communications. The existing radio system is at the end of its lifecycle and must be replaced. Seattle's only alternatives are to collaborate and participate in the regional project or to go it alone. If Seattle goes it alone, it will need to independently fund, design, implement, operate, maintain and upgrade its portion of the 800 MHz radio system. There is a risk that Seattle first responders could lose some functionality and ability to communicate with other first responders in King County and the central Puget Sound region if Seattle's system were not fully-compatible and integrated with other radio systems in the region.

Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

No.

Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?

No.

Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

No.

e) Other Issues:

List attachments to the fiscal note below:

N/A